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Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Prevention of armed conflict: strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Letter dated 1 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

At its 105th plenary meeting, held on 31 July 2014, the General Assembly adopted its resolution 68/303, entitled "Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution". Taking this opportunity, I would like to convey our appreciation to the Permanent Representatives of Finland and Turkey and their teams for their leadership and skilful efforts, which enabled parties to reach agreement on and to succeed in garnering overwhelming support for this important resolution. Azerbaijan is pleased to be one of its co-sponsors.

At its sixty-fifth and sixty-sixth sessions, the General Assembly adopted two resolutions on the topic (resolutions 65/283 of 22 June 2011 and 66/291 of 13 September 2012) and the Secretary-General submitted a report, which contains the Guidance for Effective Mediation (A/66/811). Azerbaijan considers the unanimous adoption in 2011 of resolution 65/283 and the subsequent process as an essential effort towards providing the existing and future mediation mechanisms with useful guidance.

Azerbaijan's contribution to reinforcing the promotion of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution has manifested, inter alia, in initiating a series of discussions on the topic. Thus, during its presidency of the Security Council in May 2012, Azerbaijan organized an

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Arria-formula meeting of the Security Council to encourage a frank exchange of views on the role of mediation, judicial settlement and justice in promoting durable peace and reconciliation.

As part of its presidency of the Security Council in October 2013, Azerbaijan convened a high-level meeting on strengthening the partnership synergy between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). In its presidential statement S/PRST/2013/16, adopted as an outcome of the meeting, the Security Council, inter alia, recognized and further encouraged the active contribution of OIC to the work of the United Nations and noted that the two organizations share common objectives in fostering solutions to some specific issues of concern and other conflicts in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

In recent years, important progress has been achieved in enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and regional partners across a full range of areas, including the maintenance of international peace and security, the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution. Indeed, in a number of instances, the relevant regional organizations have proved to be indispensable mechanisms for promoting international and regional peace, security and cooperation, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

At the same time, serious challenges remain. While regional organizations are normally well-positioned to understand the causes of armed conflicts, owing to their knowledge of the region, it is obvious that not all of them can boast the ability, political will and institutional capacity to ensure compliance by Member States with their statutory commitments.

First and foremost, it is crucial that all Member States adhere to their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations. As a matter of priority, special attention should be given to the implementation of resolutions adopted by the principal organs of the United Nations, in particular those relating to the settlement of conflicts. In that regard, we consider it essential that, in resolutions 65/283 and 68/303, the General Assembly recalled all such resolutions related to the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, including through mediation. Such a reference obviously includes some unresolved protracted conflicts, which were addressed earlier by the General Assembly and the Security Council, in particular those pertaining to the illegal use of force and foreign occupation.

In that context, we welcome the reaffirmation in the resolution of the commitment to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States, as well as the explicit reference to the right of self-determination of peoples which remain under colonial domination or foreign occupation.

This approach ensures that no peace settlement is reached that is inconsistent with international law and provides guidance not only for the parties to the conflict but also for the international community as a whole and, when appropriate, mediation efforts undertaken at the regional and subregional levels.

As a country that is itself suffering from prolonged military occupation by the Republic of Armenia and the resultant large-scale ethnic cleansing of a significant

part of its territory, Azerbaijan strongly supports such an approach in addressing protracted conflicts and their military, humanitarian and human rights consequences. Against this background, the statement made by the delegation of Armenia at the plenary meeting on 31 July 2014 to disassociate itself from the consensus on resolution 68/303 is yet more evidence of that Member State's isolationist policy, disregard for international law and unwillingness to engage constructively in the ongoing conflict settlement process.

We look forward to further initiatives on the topic with the view of contributing to developing and implementing comprehensive peace strategies within particular frameworks, providing that dispute settlement and conflict resolution are based on respect for international law, the rule of law and for justice. Azerbaijan will continue to be an active partner in that process.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 33 (b), 34 and 38, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Agenda item 35
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Letter dated 30 July 2014 from the representatives of Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Iran (Islamic Republic of) to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In our capacity as Co-Chairs of the Joint Coordination Committee (the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 and China), we have the honour to transmit to you the communiqué of the Joint Coordination Committee of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 and China calling for an end to the Israeli military aggression against the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip (see annex).

We should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sacha **Llorentty Soliz**
Permanent Representative of the
Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations
and Chair of the Group of 77

(*Signed*) Gholam Hossein **Dehghani**
Ambassador and Chargé d'affaires a.i.
and Chairperson of the Non-Aligned Movement Coordinating Bureau

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Annex to the letter dated 30 July 2014 from the representatives of Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Iran (Islamic Republic of) to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Communiqué of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 and China calling for an end to the Israeli military aggression against the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip

The members of the Joint Coordination Committee strongly condemn the ongoing military aggression by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which has caused high civilian casualties, particularly in the Gaza Strip, where more than 1,000 Palestinians, including hundreds of children, women and elderly persons, have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, more than 6,000 civilians have been injured, and more than 180,000 civilians have been displaced.

The Committee condemns this wanton killing and injury of Palestinian civilians, including the killing of many families in their entirety, and condemns the massive destruction of homes and vital civilian infrastructure, including water and sanitation networks, compounding the humanitarian crisis and suffering of the 1.8 million Palestinians in Gaza, who have been enduring massive collective punishment under Israel's inhumane eight-year blockade. The Committee expresses grave concern about the deepening humanitarian crisis and calls for the urgent provision of emergency humanitarian assistance to meet the needs of the civilian population.

The Committee strongly condemns all violence against civilians wherever it occurs and urges all parties to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law. The Committee calls on both parties and all concerned regional and international parties to urgently engage in efforts to achieve a durable and fully respected ceasefire to de-escalate this dangerous situation and protect civilian lives.

The Committee condemns the targeting of UNRWA facilities, including schools, by Israel, the occupying Power, which has led to the death of civilians, particularly women and children seeking shelter and safety under the United Nations flag. The Committee calls for an immediate transparent investigation by the United Nations of the bombardment of the UNRWA elementary school in Beit Hanoun in the Gaza Strip on 24 July 2014, in which at least 17 Palestinian civilians were killed, and stresses the imperative need to ensure accountability for such crimes.

The members of the Joint Coordination Committee demand an immediate end to Israel's military aggression against the Palestinian people, and call on the international community, in particular the Security Council, to exert all efforts to bring a halt to Israeli military operations in Gaza and to ensure a sustainable ceasefire, in line with the November 2012 ceasefire. In this regard, the Committee also calls for serious efforts to compel full respect for international humanitarian law and ensure protection for the Palestinian civilian population and calls for the lifting of the Israeli blockade and an end to all measures of collective punishment against the Palestinian civilian population.

The Committee stresses that a firm message must be conveyed to Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its military attacks, as well as all human rights violations, against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. It must be demanded of Israel to abide forthwith by all of its obligations under international law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention, and by all relevant United Nations resolutions. The Committee members further stress the need to hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable for all its breaches of international humanitarian law and human rights violations.

The Committee calls on the Security Council to act immediately to call for and secure a ceasefire, contribute to a de-escalation of the crisis situation on the ground, and salvage the prospects for realizing a just and lasting peace and security, and recognizes the urgent call in this regard made by the Security Council in its presidential statement of 28 July 2014. The Security Council must uphold its Charter duties with an immediate view to saving and protecting innocent civilian lives and averting the further destabilization of the situation, which constitutes a threat to regional and international peace and security, and must adopt a resolution to this effect.

At this time of crisis, the members of the Joint Coordination Committee reaffirm their unwavering support and solidarity to the Palestinian people and their resilient efforts to realize their inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations for freedom, justice and peace.

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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Letter dated 4 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with instructions received from the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated 3 August 2014, in connection with the recent provocative offensive actions by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia from their positions in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and from the territory of Armenia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex urgently circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 38 and 77, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 4 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

3 August 2014

During the last several days, having violated the ceasefire regime in various directions along the Armenia-Azerbaijan border and the line of contact, the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia, the Occupying Power, have made several incursions into the positions of the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The reconnaissance and subversive groups of the armed forces of Armenia have made several attempts to cross the line of contact. These provocative actions by the Armenian side caused significant escalation along the front line and resulted in numerous human losses. The official Yerevan, which ordered these provocative actions, bears full responsibility for aggravating the dangerous situation.

Armenia's unconstructiveness in the negotiations, its interest in maintaining the status quo, its evasion of the Madrid peace plan, its refusal to comply with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, its policy of ruthless ethnic cleansing (the expulsion of over a million people from their native lands), and its latest provocative actions aimed at undermining the peace process — all these provide the strongest grounds to impose substantial sanctions against Armenia by the international community. The continued presence of Armenia's armed forces on the occupied territories of Azerbaijan remains the biggest threat to the peace process. Therefore, first and foremost, the armed forces of Armenia must withdraw from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The earlier Armenia realizes this, the sooner peace, stability and predictability can be restored in the region.

The Ministry offers sincere condolences to the families of those sons of Azerbaijan who sacrificed their lives for the country's independence and territorial integrity. Let them rest in peace!